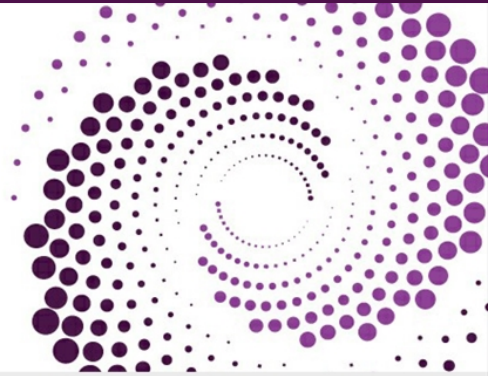


UPMC

LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

Department of
Critical Care Medicine



In Partnership with University of Pittsburgh



A Message from Our Vice Chair for Education

Dear Critical Care Medicine alumni,

As year three of the pandemic begins on the heels of the second cancellation of the SCCM Congress, we all know our work world has changed significantly in the last two years. Friends and colleagues are leaving the field, creating gaps in care and personnel shortages. Patients and families question our decisions and push for care that's not evidence based. Members of our communities refuse preventative interventions yet have high expectations for symptom resolution when they come to the hospital. How do we counter these frustrations and our moral distress?

In this issue, we highlight the HOPE Initiative, a wellness program created for colleagues to process emotions after distressing cases. We seek your thoughts on creating a social media platform that connects and supports our alumni. You'll also read about the global success of the Pediatric Neurocritical Care Educational Series, a bright spot amidst the pandemic gloom.

You may have noticed this issue's new design—after listening to thoughts from alumni across 50 specialties, we've updated our communications to reflect a primary affiliation with UPMC, emphasizing partnership with the University of Pittsburgh.

I look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas. Keep smiling behind your mask...eyes do smile!

Sincerely,

[Lori Shutter](#), MD, FNCS, FCCM
Vice Chair for Education



HOPE Initiative: Processing Emotions During the Pandemic

The crunch for beds during last year's Delta surge led to the Adult ICU at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital transitioning to a COVID-19 unit. [Raghavan Murugan](#), MD, MS (CCM '06), critical care chief at UPMC Magee, faced a wave of COVID-19 patients who were younger, unvaccinated and often pregnant. The death of a 22-year-old man from respiratory failure left an immense emotional toll on his team. He co-created the HOPE Initiative for team members to share their emotions and connect with others feeling the same way—it helped a lot.

[Read More](#)



Alumni SoMe Connection

The pandemic has stretched us emotionally and physically and severed many of our collegial ties. We plan—with your input—to launch a social media group that gives alumni a new way to connect and rebuild relationships. [Send us your ideas via this two-question survey](#) for the social media platform you think will work best. Is it a group on LinkedIn, Sermo, Twitter, Among Doctors or something else?

[Take Survey](#)



Education: Pediatric Neurocritical Care

Launched during the pandemic, the virtual Pediatric Neurocritical Care Educational Series has quickly garnered a huge international following. “We thought we were catering to a small community of PCCM and Pediatric Neurocritical Care fellows in the U.S. who wanted to learn more about caring for these very challenging patients. It turns out the audience is worldwide and much larger than we expected,” said [Dennis Simon](#), MD (CCM '14), who co-created the novel one-topic/two-month structure for the series. Dennis is an assistant professor of critical care medicine and director of Pediatric Neurocritical Care at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

[Read More](#)



Distinguished Alumnus Lecture: Lewis Kaplan, MD

Lewis Kaplan, Professor for Surgery, Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

[Lewis Kaplan](#) (CCM '97) delivered the 19th Distinguished Alumnus Lecture on Jan. 26, 2022. He spoke to a virtual audience on “The Role of Medical Professional Organizations in Pandemic Care” as part of our Grand Rounds series.

If you have suggestions for future Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Lecture speakers, please contact GME Academic Manager Mackenzie Coffy at martinm9@upmc.edu.

[Listen to Lew’s Talk](#)

Fellow Profile: Liz Pace, MD

Second-year pediatric cardiac critical care fellow and co-chief CICU fellow

Has your fellowship changed your career plans?

Yes! Originally, my plan was to be a PICU attending with pediatric cardiac skills. I love seeing pathophysiology play out in front of my eyes in these incredibly complex cardiac patients. Learning from consummate teachers and brilliant practitioners helped me find my calling:



pediatric cardiac critical care. It's a high-risk, high-reward field and I love it every day.

How do you use data in your triathlon training?

I'm very data-driven. My triathlon coach and I use physiologic data to see how my body handles the run, bike and swim training; sleep deprivation; and to track recovery. Data lets me train efficiently. I'll be in Hawaii in June for my first half Ironman and Wisconsin in September for my first full Ironman. Understanding data is also a big part of my master's in clinical research. Ultimately, I want to use data to build new clinical trials.

Quick News

- Congratulations to four new Fellows of Critical Care Medicine: Subbarao Elapavaluru (CCM '08), Zhiyong Peng (CCM '13), [Brad Butcher](#), medical director, UPMC Mercy Medical Surgical ICU, and [Meg Anderson](#), senior nurse practitioner.
- [Jennifer Yu](#), MD (CCM '16), promoted to vice chair of faculty development for the Department of Critical Care Medicine at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. She is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine.
- [Kristina Rudd](#), MD, MPH, honored with a Young Physician-Scientist Award by the American Society for Clinical Investigation.
- [Lori Shutter and Melinda Hamilton](#) (CCM '03) assumed SCCM chair and chair-elect roles.
- [Melinda Hamilton, Dana Fuhrman \(CCM '15\) and Rod Ghassemzadeh](#) assumed new Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship program leadership roles.
- [Douglas White](#) elected a Hastings Center Fellow.
- Five faculty members and one research fellow passed the [certification examination in Neurocritical Care](#) by the American Board of Medical Specialties.
- Donate to the [Critical Care Medicine Research Fund](#) in Ake Grenvik's name.
- In Memoriam: Hector Wong, MD (CCM '95), passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 24, 2022. He was vice chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's where he cared for patients and families for more than 25 years. Read more about Dr. Wong in his [Cincinnati Children's obituary](#).

Tell Us What You Think

We want to hear from you—[provide us with your feedback and suggestions](#). Thank you in advance for your time and insight.



Twitter: @PittCCM
Update Your Information
Unsubscribe

Department of Critical Care Medicine
3550 Terrace Street
Alan Magee Scaife Hall, Suite 600
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

